

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING 22 JULY 2021

Held by Microsoft Teams commencing at 5.00 pm (AEST)

Participating

Justice Glenn Martin AM (Meeting Chair)
Chief Justice Alan Blow AO
Deputy Chief Magistrate Brett Dixon
Justice Steven Moore
Acting Justice Anthony Rafter
Judge Rauf Soulio
Judge Andrew Stavrianou
Justice Michael Walton

Apologies

Justice Michael Baumann AM
Justice John Burns
Magistrate Jan Maclean
Justice Neil McKerracher

In attendance

Lillian Lesueur (CEO)

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were noted.

2 Starred and Unstarred Items

The Committee agreed to resolve or note unstarred items as appropriate.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021 were approved.

4 Matters arising from 22 April Executive Committee meeting and 19 June 2021 Governing Council meeting

Actions were discussed under the relevant agenda item. Completed items were noted.

5 AJOA Financial report

Justice Martin noted that it was pleasing that the AJOA has approximately \$500,000 in equity. The projected loss of \$18,000 for the year 2020/21 is slightly larger than budgeted, and a pleasing result given the disruptions caused by Covid-19.

6 Membership

The report was noted.

7 Member Benefits Scheme

The Executive Committee discussed the very low usage by members of the Members Benefits Scheme. It was agreed that the Committee would review whether the AJOA should continue the arrangement with Member Benefits.

Lillian advised that Member Benefits are proposing to survey AJOA members to ascertain their views on the scheme.

Action: Justice Martin to review the contract with Member Benefits to determine what notice needs to be given if we wish to terminate the agreement.

8 Media releases, letters to the editor or articles listed since the last meeting of the Executive Committee

Noted.

Projects and Activities

9 Colloquiums

Justice Walton reported that the 2021 Colloquium Sub-Committee is still working on securing a keynote speaker for the Colloquium. President O'Connor has approached Dr Jackie Huggins, Co-Chair, Eminent Panel and Treaty Working Group, Pathway to Treaty, Queensland; Co-Chair National Apology Foundation; and First Nations Peoples Strategic Advisory Group member Disability Royal Commission, to deliver the keynote address.

It was agreed that, if at all possible, the 2021 Colloquium should proceed as planned. If the number of attendees remains low the sessions can evolve into more intimate discussion forums. If a face-to-face program is not possible we will need to consider delivering the program on-line.

Justice Walton advised that the 2022 Colloquium Sub-Committee will write to prospective speakers by the end of August 2021 with a view to having all speakers in place by the end of 2021. Justice Martin reported that Dame Victoria Sharp, President of the Queens Bench Division, High Court of Justice, UK, may be in Australia around the time of the 2022 Colloquium. If this transpires, Justice Martin will invite her to attend the 2022 Colloquium.

10 Post-Retirement Income and Restrictions on Practice

Justice Walton advised that the Governing Council endorsed the final version of the Post-Retirement Income and Restrictions on Practice report. The work of the Sub-Committee has been completed. The Executive Committee dissolved the Sub-Committee.

Action: Justice Martin to write to Chief Justice Keifel enclosing a copy of the report for consideration at the October 2021 meeting of the Council of Chief Justices.

11 Equality of Outcomes in the Courts

Justice Martin reported that all but one of the judicial officers invited to join the sub-committee on Equality of Outcomes in the Courts have agreed to do so.

Action: Justice Martin to follow up with Judge MacLean, District Court of WA, to see if he would be willing to join the sub-committee.

12 AJOA Policy on Change of Titles for Magistrates

Justice Martin thanked Deputy Chief Magistrate Dixon for co-ordinating the preparation of a set of talking points for use at meetings with State and Territory Attorneys-General to propose the change of title for magistrates. Meetings can now be held with Attorneys'-General in relevant States and Territories.

Action: Justice Martin to set up meeting with Deputy Chief Magistrate Brassington, the Queensland Attorney-General and himself to propose change of title for Queensland Magistrates.

13 Online Course: The Modern Judiciary

Justice Martin reported that good progress is being made on the development of an Australian version of the on-line Modern Judiciary course. The course should be ready to be run in 2022.

President's and CEO's Reports**14 President's Report**

Justice Martin has had positive discussions with the Chair of the Association of Australian Magistrates, Magistrate Roger Prowse, about the possible merger between the two organisations. If the merger is to proceed, the AJOA will need to amend its Rules to enable the AAM to transfer funds to the AJOA. The AJOA will also need to develop procedures to facilitate existing AAM members to join the AJOA and develop messages to encourage those magistrates who are not currently a member of either the AAM or the AJOA to join the merged organisation.

Action: Justice Martin to hold further discussions with the Chair of the AAM.

Action: The AJOA to consider amending its Constitution at its 2021 Annual General Meeting to enable a merger with the AAM to proceed.

Justice Martin raised the issue of how the Australian delegation to the September 2021 IAJ Central Council Meeting, Justice Davies and Judge Kirton, should vote on the question of whether the 2022 IAJ meeting should be held in Israel or Taiwan. DFAT advice on travelling to Israel will need to be taken into account. It is not clear at this stage what the resolution will be that delegates will be asked to vote on.

Action: Justice Martin to liaise with the President of the IAJ to seek further information on the issue. Justice Martin to keep Justice Davies and Judge Kirton apprised of the situation.

13 CEO's Report

Lillian advised that she has had further discussions with Isentia on providing clips of print media reports to members. Under the copyright downstream licence, we are unable to distribute the full version of print or online content to our membership. This means we should not be producing and distributing the PDF version of the newsletter.

Isentia have advised that we can distribute an alternative report format that is compliant with copyright and downstream requirements and still permits access to content to our membership. Members will not need to log in to the Isentia portal to gain access to the articles.

Lillian presented the two alternative colour palettes for the new logo for the Committee's consideration. Once the colour palette has been agreed work will start on redesigning the letterhead, newsletter template and other collateral.

Action: Justice Martin and Lillian to decide on colour palette to be adopted.

Lillian reported that, with the new logo and branding for the AJOA, as well as the potential merger with the AAM, we will need to redesign the website. This should be done in conjunction with a review to the membership database to ensure the database meets our needs effectively and efficiently. Justice Martin advised that it would be helpful if Governing Council members could access the database to review who in their court are AJOA members.

Action: Lillian to obtain quotes for redesign of the website and AJOA database.

Lillian also reported that the additional Administrative Assistant role will be advertised to the ANU CoL students at the end of July.

14 Items for Noting

The items were noted.

15 Any other business

2022 Executive Committee meeting dates were noted.

16 Next meeting

The next meeting of the Governing Council will be held on Thursday 21 October 2021.